

*Thoughts on*

# Getting Starting in Traveling Music Ministry

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In my travels as a praise & worship leader I have had the privilege of running into several, young musicians who have a desire to be worship leaders. One of the biggest questions I get asked is, “how did you get started in traveling ministry?”. Every person’s journey is different but there are some things that I think you can learn from mine! Enjoying worship leading as a career isn’t what I thought I would be doing after graduating from seminary. I had every intention of serving in a church full-time. I do have the joy of being based out of a local church with the freedom to travel. So, to all you young musicians out there who have a desire to travel and serve the church leading praise & worship, here are some thoughts for you:

- Keep doing it. I know it sounds simple, but the more you do, the more you get to do.
- Go do it for free until you build up - I just sent out a note to area churches that said, "I want to sing at your Sunday Morning worship". They let me come, and even though I didn't ask for money, usually took up an offering. Asking for honorariums too prematurely will turn away people who will asking you to sing.
- Lead music in your church when they ask - when you do this, you get practice. Also, there are times a visitor will be in church and ask you to come to their church.
- If available, lead music for camps and youth events! There are tons of camps needing worship leaders
- If you are doing original music or more "performance" oriented music, then you will need to make it excellent. Invest in what it takes to make it good.
- If you are leading praise and worship for youth conference, retreat and other events it would be wise to learn some other skills. Master a few fool proof group building games, ice breakers, stories, discussion topics, speaking sessions, etc.
- Contact denominational headquarters - just send them a picture and bio of you, saying that you want to sing at youth events or anything else...
- The biggest thing is just sing for anything they ask you to do... And don't worry about money until the time is right. Just keep on plugging away.

*Tim Price is the Director of Harvest Ministry Teams in Troy, IL. Since 1996, Harvest has been in existence to “equip young adults for ministry while providing a resource to the local church”. Tim (along with others from the ministry) is available to lead worship and speak for your event. He lives in Troy, IL with his wife Suzanne and daughter Ruby.*

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